

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a secure supply chain management framework, comprising:

(a) registering a plurality of users as one of three user types comprising~~including~~ independent suppliers, independent distributors, and independent stores of a franchise supply chain utilizing a network;

(b) maintaining in a supply chain computer the registered users on a list;

(c) collecting data from a plurality of independent stores of the supply chain utilizing the network;

(d) updating the list to add, edit, and delete the users utilizing the network upon receipt of a notice from one of the independent stores;

(e) receiving a request for access to the data utilizing the network, the request including an identifier;

(f) comparing the identifier against the list and determining the user type; and

(g) displaying a network-based interface for allowing access to only certain of the data upon the successful comparison of the identifier against the list, with the certain data determined, at least in part, by the user type.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier includes a password.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data is encrypted.

4. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, wherein the list is updated upon receipt of a notice from at least one of the stores.

5. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, wherein only certain data is displayed based on the user being one of the suppliers, distributors, and stores.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for a secure supply chain management framework, comprising:

an electronic storage; and

a set of processors that use the electronic storage and include among them the following logic:

(a) logic for registering a plurality of users as one of three user types comprising~~including~~ independent suppliers, independent distributors, and independent stores of a franchise supply chain utilizing a network;

(b) logic for maintaining in a supply chain computer the registered users on a list;

(c) logic for collecting data from a plurality of independent stores of the supply chain utilizing the network;

(d) logic for updating the list to add, edit, and delete the users utilizing the network upon receipt of a notice from at least one of the independent stores;

(e) logic for receiving a request for access to the data utilizing the network, the request including an identifier;

(f) logic for comparing the identifier against the list and determining the user type; and

(g) logic for displaying a network-based interface for allowing access to only certain of the data upon the successful comparison of the identifier against the list, with the certain data determined, at least in part, by the user type.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the identifier includes a password.

9. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the data is encrypted.
10. (Cancelled) The system of claim 7, wherein the list is updated upon receipt of a notice from at least one of the stores.
11. (Cancelled) The system of claim 7, wherein only certain data is displayed based on the user being one of the suppliers, distributors, and stores.
12. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.
13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for a secure supply chain management framework, comprising:

a set of computer usable media having computer readable program code embodied therein to be executed by a computer, the computer readable program code, when executed, causing a machine to perform the following method steps

- (a) computer code for registering a plurality of users as one of three user types comprising including independent suppliers, independent distributors, and independent stores of a franchise supply chain utilizing a network;
- (b) computer code for maintaining in a supply chain computer the registered users on a list;
- (c) computer code for collecting data from a plurality of independent stores of the supply chain utilizing the network upon receipt of a notice from at least one of the independent stores;
- (d) computer code for updating the list to add, edit, and delete the users utilizing the network upon receipt of a notice from at least one of the independent stores;
- (e) computer code for receiving a request for access to the data utilizing the network, the request including an identifier;

(f) computer code for comparing the identifier against the list and determining the user type; and

(g) computer code for displaying a network-based interface for allowing access to only certain of the data upon the successful comparison of the identifier against the list, with the certain data determined, at least in part, by the user type.

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the identifier includes a password.

15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data is encrypted.

16. (Cancelled) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the list is updated upon receipt of a notice from at least one of the stores.

17. (Cancelled) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein only certain data is displayed based on the user being one of the suppliers, distributors, and stores.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the Internet.